

REMARKS

The present amendments and remarks are responsive to the Official Action having a mailing date of October 21, 2003. Claims 15-34 are pending. Claims 15-34 are objected to. Claims 30, 32, 33 and 34 are amended. Entry of the foregoing and reexamination of the above-captioned application, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, and in light of the remarks that follow, are respectfully requested. Because Applicants are adopting the changes that the Examiner suggested, which would place this application in condition for allowance, entry of these amendments is consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's comment that the Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS") submitted on September 11, 2003, consists of previously considered and cited documents. Therefore, Applicants agree that the submission of this IDS should therefore be considered superfluous. The IDS previously submitted by Applicants on March 21, 2001, was acknowledged by the Examiner on July 11, 2002, and satisfies the requirements under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(b). Accordingly, no further action should be necessary.

The Examiner has objected to claims 30, 32, 33 and 34 because of certain informalities. Applicants have amended claims 30, 32, 33 and 34 incorporating the amendments suggested by the Examiner. It should be clear that these clarifying amendments do not, and were not, intended to alter the scope of these claims.

The Examiner indicated that, if Applicants amended the claims accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance and has provided a statement of the reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter. As it is believed that all of the issues set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, allowance is earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: December 19, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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